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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/532,114	06/23/2006	Francois Schutze	032013-119	9051

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EXAMINER	
SPIVACK, PHYLLIS G	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1614	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
06/07/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/532,114	SCHUTZE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Phyllis G. Spivack	1614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *12 March 2007*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-6 and 9-18* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-6, 9-18* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *4-12-07*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Applicants' Amendment filed March 12, 2007 is acknowledged. Claims 1-6 and 9-18 remain under consideration.

An Information Disclosure Statement filed April 12, 2007 is further acknowledged and has been reviewed. S.N. 102/561,844 has been reviewed.

Applicants' arguments filed March 12, 2007 have been fully considered and are persuasive in part. Rejections and/or objections not reiterated from previous Office Actions are hereby withdrawn. The following rejection is newly set forth and constitutes the only rejection presently applied to the instant claims.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6 and 9-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brulls, M., U.S. Patent 6,730,685, in view of Facts & Comparisons.

Brulls teaches pharmaceutical compositions that are combinations of tenatoprazole and H_2-blockers, such as ranitidine. See column 7, lines 22-26. Tenatoprazole is exemplified as a compound of Formula I at the top of column 12. Brulls' teaching is drawn to treatment of diseases relating to gastric hyperacidity, such as gastric and duodenal ulcers and reflux esophagitis. See columns 6-7 under Use of the Invention. A dosage range for tenatoprazole is taught to be 1-100 mg once or twice a day (column 7, lines 14-15). Both oral and parenteral administration is disclosed in column 3, lines 1-8. As required by instant claim 5, sodium or potassium salts are

disclosed in claims 4 and 5. As required by instant claims 4, 10 and 11, Facts & Comparisons teaches an oral dose of the H_2-blocker ranitidine to be 150 mg and a parenteral dose to be 50 mg.

Brulls fails to teach a weight ratio range between tenatoprazole and an H_2–receptor antagonist. However, it is not inventive to discover an optimum or workable range by routine experimentation when general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art. See *In re Aller*, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233,235 (CCPA 1955) and MPEP 2144.05(II). The determination of the optimum dosage regimen to employ with the presently claimed active agents would have been a matter well within the purview of one of ordinary skill in the art. Such determination would have been made in accordance with a variety of factors. These would have included such factors as the age, weight, sex, diet and medical condition of the patient, severity of the disease, the route of administration, pharmacological considerations, such as the activity, efficacy, pharmacokinetics and toxicology profiles of the particular compounds employed. Thus, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, the currently claimed specific weight ratio range is not seen to be inconsistent with a range that would have been determined by the skilled artisan.

No unexpected results are shown in Table 2 on page 8 of the specification following the administration of a capsule formulation having tenatoprazole 20 mg and ranitidine 200 mg. Applicants have not shown this combination of tenatoprazole and ranitidine to be markedly superior to the control of gastric acidity compared to the administration of each component alone.

No claim is allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Phyllis G. Spivack whose telephone number is 571-272-0585. The Examiner can normally be reached from 10:30 to 7 PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful after one business day, the Examiner's supervisor, Ardin Marschel, can be reached 571-272-0718. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Phyllis Spivack

June 3, 2007

Phyllis Spivack

PHYLLIS SPIVACK
PRIMARY EXAMINER